

WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT WATER RATES/FEES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

11/15/02

Members Present:

Ted Garille
John Bell
Jeanne Bondarevskis
Al Mancini
Anthony Simeone

Members Absent:

Guy Lefebvre
Peter Marino
Ken Payne

Guests

Connie McGreavy

I. CALL TO ORDER:

With a quorum present, Mr. Ted Garille called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Being the first meeting, there were no minutes of the previous meeting.

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A. Documentation of Meetings:

The committee discussed the taking of minutes. Jeanne Bondarevskis volunteered to take the minutes for the first meeting.

B. Building Committee Participation:

The committee discussed the fact that once a month, the lead members of each sub-committee will be reporting to the full WAP committee. Connie discussed that a press release may be placed in various newspapers to solicit members to join the sub-committees for additional committee members.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Overview of Water Allocation Program (WAP):

The WRB is charged with developing a WAP. There will be some type of water use registration. There will also be a stream flow standard. The WAP committee will develop the criteria for allocating water. Conservation will be a big element. Conservation rates may even be considered and recommended. The WAP wants to have a program in place to approve or deny water use applications. Each sub-committee will report at one of the monthly meetings. By April 2003, the rates sub-committee will have to present our results. Other sub-committees will be interested in pricing issues.

B. Purpose of Committee:

Connie has researched other states to determine what they have been developing regarding rates, fees and charges. She presented this to the sub-committee, along with links to different studies. The committee discussed that we all will have to start thinking more broadly on how and to what fees are attached.

C. Developing Mission, Goals and Outcomes:

Mr. Simeone mentioned that he believes the sub-committee needs to categorize users. According to his information, there are about 484 water suppliers in the State of RI. The problem with little suppliers is that they don't have the resources or rate structure to meet regulations. Mr. Bell discussed his concern with direct draw users. How will this be quantified?

The sub-committee also discussed the need to identify the nature of users, i.e. public suppliers that are non-profit, private suppliers that are for profit, etc. USGS is doing water use availability studies for the WRB. USGS does a water use report for each state. The WRB has the reports for 1985, 1990, and 1995 and are waiting for the 2000 report to be finalized.

Mr. Garille mentioned his concern with the differing rate structures throughout the State of RI, as presented by the WRB. He mentioned that he feels this is something the sub-committee should look at. He also felt that we should be looking at a demand side management program for water, similar to the electric utilities.

D. Report to the Water Allocation Program Advisory Committee

The next WAP Advisory Committee meeting is November 22, 2002.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

The next meeting of the rates sub-committee will be on December 11th at 10 AM.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Mr. John Bell, seconded by Ms. Bondarevskis, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Bondarevskis
Water Rates/Fees Sub-committee

**Note: For more information on Water Allocation, visit: <http://www.seagrant.gso.uri.edu/scc/wrb/index.html>.*

Addendum to Minutes of Rates Committee Meeting 11/15/02

Items for further consideration and/or action:

1. Further define the “problems” with the existing rate structures for water.
I.e.: Should the unit be standardized to gallons or hundred cubic feet?
2. Identify and classify water suppliers. I.e. Not for profit vs. for profit, Municipal vs. private etc
3. Identify users who do not currently have their usage metered. I.e. Ocean State Power which draws directly from the Blackstone River, pool company’s, Fire Departments etc.
4. Consider the impact of fees for registration of different classes of users.
5. Seasonal adjustment of water usage fees?
6. Legislatively create a charge per gallon, to be paid by all water customers, similar to the “DSM” charge currently in place on electricity consumption.
7. Exclusively usage of fees in #6 to encourage, through rebates, conservation measures or possibly subsidizing more favorable rates for those who recycle etc.
8. Consideration of funding an “overseer” or Independent System Operator concept to accomplish statewide tie in of systems.
9. Are we currently assessing a charge for the actual product? Or just summarizing the imbedded costs to deliver water?
10. Consider the integration of water usage/waste water discharge fees.